

10/12/74

Dear Jim,

If I don't rush off a hasty response to your undated letter postmarked the 9th it will get lost in the still newest taker of time, and extraordinary amount of work on the Ray case aspects of which as a lawyer you will probably study as precedent in habeas corpus cases.

It has taken a disproportionate amount of my time because there has been only Jim Lesar, who has yet to try his first case, to do any other work. Bud was abroad and Livingston, who is in the case pro forma only, was tied up in a murder case.

To simplify, I thought I was aware of dirty tricks but if there is one thing with which I can credit the monsters who are assistant attorneys general of Tennessee it is that they had new ones I didn't anticipate and they never ran out. They ran our asses off and the decent judge, who was and is also timid and anxious to avoid anything that can cause a stir in the papers, sat still for it. This I do not expect to last forever and I have made at least a minimal record and filed it, with charges that will probably be ignored.

From the time I got up until 1 p.m. when I went out to row some I worked on this case only and as soon as I finish this note I must get back to work. I'm explaining why I can't make full response.

On the Congressmen: Gonzalez has the chance of a snowball in hell because he is without influence and because he did not do his homework first and because he is repeating the fruit of the nuttury. I've stayed away from him for these and other reasons. I don't ~~believe~~ believe in engaging what I believe will be a waste of time because I can't do all I want to anyway. Lett is unlikely to do anything of real meaning. However, I have a new book about to appear that has contents that might appeal to him. Unfortunately, with increased costs and in fear having had to borrow the money to pay the printer we can have no freebies. I regret the reasons I expect it to appeal to Lett because ~~temperament~~ again it will be political prejudice, in this case against Warren. He'll likely ignore all others and their transgressions and focus on Warren. My own view is that each has his own personal load to carry.

However, I'll be glad to meet with Lett and as you know my views do not influence my facts. I won't be able to if you hear from him until after the evidentiary hearing now scheduled to begin 10/22 and then after I've had a day or two to rest a bit. I'd then be more than willing, and if he has a sincere interest, I'd be willing to stay down in DC until after his working day so we could sit and talk in a leisurely manner and he'd have all the time he might want to question me. In their offices most Congressmen are too busy to take time for anything that requires explanations. It was that way when Congressional life was much simpler, in my day on the Hill.

While I did not agree with his partisanship and knew it would do him in, so to speak, I was impressed with Lett's native intelligence. Frankly, I found it inconsistent with his views and thus came to believe that he adopted views as political expediency. However, to me this has never been that kind of political issue. Thus the only member of the Commission with whom I ever had any personal contact was the most conservative, Russell. This was on my initiative, not Russell's. Or, I was not ~~strongly~~ influenced by political views in deciding which member of the Commission might be more inclined to have an open mind.

As a matter of fact, I'd have no reluctance discussing what may in the end mean more politically to him, the King assassination, as long as there is no expectation I'd discuss what must be secret because of a protective order of the court. There has been discovery and that I must preserve in confidence. However, there are generalities and these are of the past and I can discuss what I have done outside the protective order. There is in my belief a reasonable prospect that this whole frame-up will come apart and that if it has the potential I see, of forcing the government to do something, and if there is a real investigation, it may well track to those who pretend to be conservatives but in reality are extremists.

Glad you have built no hopes. The odds are still tilted. Thanks and best,